

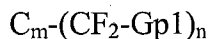
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (previously presented): A composition comprising a ion-dissociative functional compound represented by a chemical formula as follows:



where, m is a natural number for carbon atoms to form a spherical carbon molecule; n is a natural number; and Gp1 denotes an ion-dissociative group.

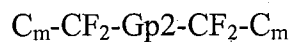
Claim 30 (previously presented): The composition as defined in claim 29, wherein  $C_m$  denotes a fullerene molecule.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The composition as defined in claim 29, wherein the ion-dissociative group is a proton-dissociative group selected from the group consisting of hydrogensulfate ester group (-OSO<sub>2</sub>OH), sulfonic acid group (-SO<sub>2</sub>OH), dihydrogen phosphate ester group (-OPO(OH)<sub>2</sub>), hydrogen phosphate ester group (-OPO(OH)-), phosphono group (-PO(OH)<sub>2</sub>), carboxyl group (-COOH), sulfoneamide group (-SO<sub>2</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub>), sulfoneimide group (-SO<sub>2</sub>-NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-), methanedisulfonyl group (-SO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-SO<sub>2</sub>-), carboxamide group (-CO-NH<sub>2</sub>), and carboximide group (-CO-NH-CO-).

Claim 32 (previously presented): An ionic conductor which contains the ion-dissociative functional compound defined in any of claims 29 to 31.

Claims 33 -36 (canceled).

Claim 37 (previously presented): A composition comprising an ion-dissociative functional compound having a linkage structure represented by a chemical formula as follows:



where, m is a natural number for carbon atoms to form a spherical carbon molecule; and Gp2 denotes an ion-dissociative group.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The composition as defined in claim 37, wherein  $C_m$  is a fullerene molecule.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The composition as defined in claim 37, wherein the ion-dissociative group is a sulfoneimide group.

Claims 40-57 (canceled).